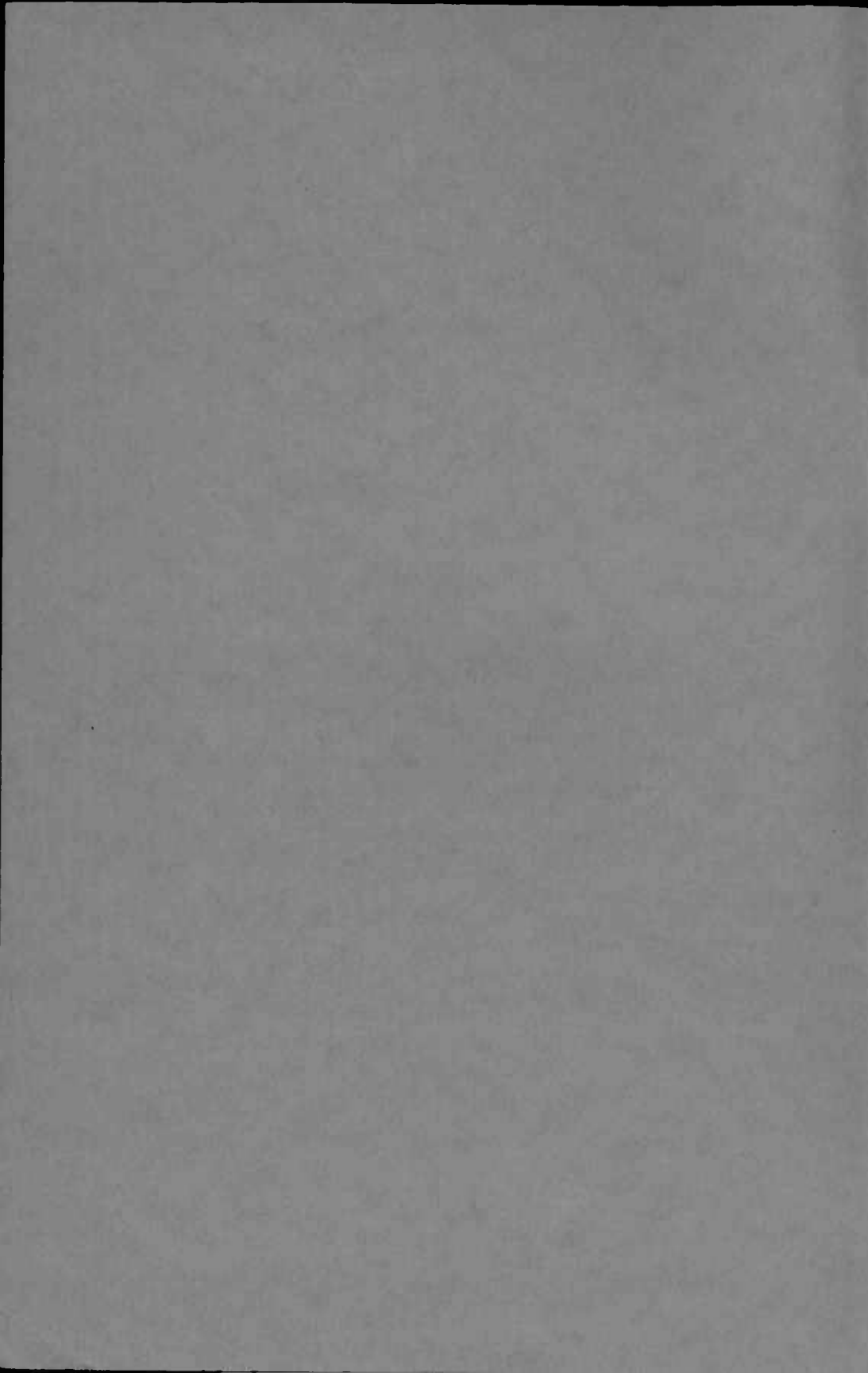


# RULES

Adopted by the Court of Appeals  
of Maryland Regulating the  
Registration of Law Students and  
Admission to the Bar---Adopted  
in Conformity with the Act of  
1898, Chapter 139, and Subse-  
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JUNE 1, 1931



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## FIRST.

All applications for registration of law students and for admission to the Bar shall be made by petition to the Court of Appeals. The petition shall be under oath and shall state:

(1) The full name, age, residence and place of birth of the applicant, and, if not born in the United States, whether he or his parents or either of them have been naturalized in the United States, and if so, the Court by which and the date of such naturalization.

(2) If the application be one for registration it shall state the preliminary education of the applicant, viz: the schools attended and the period of attendance in each; the degree or degrees, certificate or certificates received by the applicant, the date of receiving the same, and the school or schools by which they were conferred.

The petitioner shall file with his application a certificate from the Dean, Principal or other executive officer of the institution from which he received such degree or certificate, stating the course of study pursued by the applicant in such institution, the degree or certificate awarded him, and the date thereof. Such certificates shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in them.

The petitioner shall also file with his application a certificate from two reputable citizens stating how long they have known the petitioner and that he is not a person of bad or dissolute habits; but of good moral character, and that he has never, so far as known to the persons certifying, been guilty of any criminal or disgraceful conduct.

### SECOND.

If the petitioner for registration is unable to file with his application a certificate showing that he has completed a course of study at some university, college, high school or other school having a course substantially equivalent to a high school education in Maryland, he must submit to an examination to be held under the supervision of the State Board of Law Examiners.

The said Board shall meet in the months of June and November in each year and at such other times as the Board shall determine for the purpose of conducting such examinations.

The examinations herein provided for shall embrace the following subjects: (1) English (including spelling, grammar and composition); (2) United States and English History; (3) Mathematics (including Arithmetic, Algebra through quadratics and plane Geometry); (4) Physics; and (6) Geography.

### THIRD.

The State Board of Law Examiners shall certify to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals the names of the applicants who may be determined by the Board to be entitled to be registered as law students, under the provisions of the Statute and of these rules and the date as of which said registrations are effective.

## FOURTH

The Petitioner shall pay, at the time of filing his application, a fee of five dollars to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals for the use of the State Board of Law Examiners, to be applied by them in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules regulating admission to the Bar.

## FIFTH.

If the application shall be for a transfer of registration, the applicant shall in lieu of filing a certificate of his preliminary education, as required by Rule hereof, file a certificate of his registration as a Law Student in the jurisdiction from which he removes, provided such jurisdiction shall have similar standards for registration as herein provided.

## ADMISSION TO THE BAR.

## SIXTH.

If the petitioner shall apply for admission as a member of the Bar of another State or of the Courts of the United States pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 1898, the petitioner shall state that he is now an actual resident of this State, and shall further name the State in which and the Court by which the petitioner was admitted to the Bar, and shall also state that the petitioner has, for at least five years before filing his said petition, been engaged as a practitioner or teacher of the law or a Judge in such State. The petitioner shall file with his petition a copy of his license to practice, duly certified, or a copy of the Record of the Court in which he was so admitted, certified as required by law for the authentication of the records of the Courts of other States when offered as evidence in the Courts of this State.

The petitioner shall also file a certificate of a Judge of the State in which he was so admitted or a certificate

from two members of the Bar of this State certifying how long they have known the applicant, and that he is not a person of bad or dissolute habits, but of good moral character, and that he has never, so far as known to the person certifying, been guilty of any criminal or disgraceful conduct, and that he is, at the time of such certificate, a member of the Bar in good standing, and that he has been actively engaged as a practitioner or teacher of the law, or Judge, in such State for at least five years before the filing of his said petition.

(2) If the petitioner shall not apply for admission as a member of the Bar of another State, the petition shall further state:

That the petitioner has studied law in the office of a member of the Bar of this State or in a law school of the United States for at least three years, and that while so studying the law he diligently pursued the course of study prescribed in Rule 10.

The petitioner shall file with his petition a certificate from the member of the Bar in whose office he studied, or if the petitioner studied law in a law school, a certificate from the President, Dean or any instructor of such school, certifying that the petitioner has pursued under his direction for at least three years the course of study prescribed in Rule 10, and that the petitioner is not a person of bad or dissolute habits, but of good moral character, and that he has never, so far as known to the person certifying, been guilty of any criminal or disgraceful conduct.

The certificates hereinbefore provided for shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in them.

The petition shall be filed at least ten days before the day fixed for an examination by the State Board of Law Examiners.

## SEVENTH.

All the applicants for admission to the Bar who are required by the Statute or Rules of this Court to take an examination for admission before the State Board of Law Examiners, shall pay a fee of twenty-five dollars at the time of filing their petition.

No such petition will be referred to the State Board of Law Examiners until said fee is paid to the Treasurer of the Board, or to the Clerk of this Court for him.

Members of the Bar of other States who may be admitted under these rules shall only be required to pay the usual fee for administering the oath and issuing the certificate.

## EIGHTH.

All applications for admission to the Bar, except applications from members of the Bar of other States, shall be referred to the State Board of Law Examiners, who shall examine the applicants as to their qualification to practice law.

Any person who shall have studied law in the office of a member of the Bar of this State, or in a law school of the United States, for at least three years, and shall have pursued the course of study prescribed in Rule 10, and who possesses all other qualifications which are now, or may hereafter be prescribed by law, shall be eligible to take the examinations provided for in these rules, even though he be an alien or less than twenty-one years of age; provided, however, that no such person shall receive his certificate of admission to the Bar of this State, nor be qualified or permitted to perform any of the duties of an attorney at law, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and shall have arrived at the age of twenty-one years.

## NINTH.

The Board of Law Examiners shall meet twice annually, once in the month of June and once in the month of November, at such place in the State of Maryland as said Board may determine, for the purpose of conducting such examination. Thirty days' notice of the time and place of meeting shall be given.

The said Board shall hold such other meetings for the purpose of conducting examinations at such time and place and on such notice as may be directed by the Court of Appeals from time to time by special orders.

## TENTH.

All examinations shall be in writing. All applicants shall be examined by said Board on each of the following subjects: (1) Agency; (2) Conflict of Laws; (3) Constitutional Law; (4) Contracts; (5) Corporations; (6) Criminal Law; (7) Domestic Relations; (8) Equity; (9) Evidence; (10) Negotiable Instruments; (11) Personal Property; (12) Pleading and Practice at Law and in Equity; (13) Public Service Companies; (14) Real Property; (15) Torts; (16) Wills and the Administration of Estates.

The Board may, at its election, in addition to the written examination, examine orally any or all of the applicants.

The State Board of Law Examiners may prescribe rules for the conduct of examinations, provided that the applicants shall be allowed at least six hours in which to prepare the answers in the written examination.

## ELEVENTH.

The State Board of Law Examiners shall, as soon as practicable after such examination, report to the Court



of Appeals all their proceedings in connection with such examination. They shall file with their report a copy of the questions asked and all replies. The report shall also state the conclusions of said Board as to the qualifications of all applicants and shall recommend, in the case of each person examined, that he be or be not admitted to the Bar.

#### TWELFTH.

The names and places of residence of all persons recommended by said Board for admission to the Bar shall be published once a week for three successive weeks in two daily newspapers published in the City of Baltimore before the day fixed for the ratification of the report of the State Board of Law Examiners.

If no exceptions are filed to the report of the Board of Law Examiners within thirty days after their report is filed, the recommendations contained in their report shall be adopted, the action of the Board ratified, and the applicants admitted or rejected as recommended by the Board.

If exceptions to the report of the Board shall be filed such exceptions shall be heard and decided by the Court. In case an exception shall be filed to the recommendation of the Board that any applicant shall not be admitted to the Bar, and the exception relates to the qualification of the applicant to practice law, no new examination will be held, but the exception heard and determined on an examination of the applicant's answers to the questions asked him. If the exception relates to the moral character of the applicant, the exceptant and the applicant shall have the right to produce evidence in support of or against their exception before the Court or before an Examiner appointed for the purpose of taking testimony.

#### THIRTEENTH.

When it shall be determined by the Court of Appeals that an applicant is qualified to practice law and is of

good moral character, an order will be passed directing that he be admitted to the Bar on taking the oath required of a member of the Bar by the Maryland Code of Public General Laws, Article 10, Section 10.

#### FOURTEENTH.

The members of the Board of Law Examiners shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed from time to time by the Court of Appeals after reports by the Board of the amounts of fees received and of expenses incurred and their recommendation of a suitable amount to be held in reserve.

#### FIFTEENTH.

No person who is not an actual bona fide resident of this State at the time he may apply for admission to the Bar shall be permitted to take the examination prescribed by the foregoing rules.

ORDERED, by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, this 21st day of May, 1929, that the foregoing rules regulating the registration of law students and admission to the Bar, be and they are hereby adopted as the Rules of this Court in lieu of the Rules now in force.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that said Rules take effect as of this date.

CARROLL T. BOND,  
JOHN R. PATTISON,  
HAMMOND URNER,  
WILLIAM H. ADKINS,  
T. SCOTT OFFUTT,  
W. MITCHELL DIGGES,  
FRANCIS NEAL PARKE,  
D. LINDLEY SLOAN,

*Judges.*

**RULE SIXTEENTH.**

(1) A committee to be known as the CHARACTER COMMITTEE, is hereby created for Baltimore City and for each of the counties of the State.

The members of said committees shall be appointed annually by the Court of Appeals. The committee for Baltimore City shall consist of ten members, and the committee for each county shall be composed of three members.

(2) Each student at the time of filing his application for registration, as provided by law, shall be furnished by the Clerk of this Court with a copy of this Rule together with Forms A and B.

Form A shall be a questionnaire eliciting from said applicant information concerning such of his personal history and previous conduct as may throw light upon his moral character qualification for Bar membership.

Form B shall be a certificate signed by two reputable taxpayers of this State, resident in the same county or city as the applicant, certifying to said applicant's good moral character.

Forms A and B, with such amendments as may be made from time to time, shall be prepared by the State Board of Law Examiners and submitted to the Court of Appeals for its approval.

Form A shall be filled out, and, with Form B, shall be returned to the said Clerk within thirty days from date of said application for registration, which said date shall be stamped on said Forms by said Clerk.

(3) Upon the receipt of said Forms said Clerk shall forthwith transmit copies thereof respectively to the Committee for the City or County in which the applicant resides.

(4) Each committee shall then promptly, through one or more of its members,

- (a) Personally interview each applicant;
- (b) Check up on his Questionnaire and character references, and make such further investigation as may be deemed desirable and necessary.

(5) Said Committees shall as promptly as possible after names of applicants for admission to the Bar are submitted to them, investigate and consider the character and fitness to be admitted of such applicants, respectively, and transmit to the State Board of Law Examiners a report of such investigation of such applicant. Should said Board because of matters so reported to it by said committee or for any other reason conclude in the case of any of said applicants that there apparently exist proper grounds for recommending disapproval of such application, it shall promptly notify such applicant and give him or her an opportunity to appear before it and to be fully informed of the matters so reported by said committee and to answer or explain the same. If said Board thereafter still is of the opinion that an adverse report should be made on such application, it shall first give the applicant the privilege of withdrawing his application, but if he elects not to do so, and the recommendation of the Board is then against approval of such application, the Court of Appeals shall require the applicant to show cause why his or her application for registration should not be refused; and if the said Board should decide the applicant was entitled to registration and the committee having the matter in charge should desire to have such decision reviewed, the said Committee shall have the privilege, upon ten days' notice to the applicant, of an appeal therefrom to the Court of Appeals within thirty days after such decision.

(6) Said Committees shall continue respectively to have under observation and subject to their further re-

port all of said registrants up to and until the day set for Bar admission.

(7) Each applicant shall within thirty days from the date of his application for registration pay to said Clerk an additional sum of five dollars which shall be turned over to the State Board of Law Examiners to be applied to the expenses incurred by said Board or Committees under this rule.

ORDERED by the Court of Appeals of Maryland this 19th day of February, A. D. 1931, that the foregoing rule be and it is hereby adopted, to be effective as to all applications for registration, as therein mentioned, which shall be filed after the first day of June, 1931.

CARROLL T. BOND,  
JOHN R. PATTISON,  
HAMMOND URNER,  
WILLIAM H. ADKINS,  
T. SCOTT OFFUTT,  
W. MITCHELL DIGGES,  
FRANCIS NEAL PARKE,  
D. LINDLEY SLOAN,

*Judges.*

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